

The 2005 High School Concerto Competition

This is an exciting opportunity for talented high school musicians to perform in concert with the U.S. Navy Band on April 30, 2005. Last year’s winner and featured soloist, flutist Alicia Murai from Loch Raven High School in Towsen, Md., delivered a stunning performance. Additionally, we are pleased to have a number of outstanding finalists join us as part of the band for two numbers. We invite all high school musicians to apply today for this chance of a lifetime. For more information please visit our website at www.navy-band.navy.mil.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME: BIRTH OF THE BAND PART ONE

On March 4, 1925, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill establishing the United States Navy Band. Welcome to the first installment of the story behind this familiar headline.

The story of Navy music is as old as the history of our Navy. Our early Sailors used instrumental and vocal music to accompany their daily lives. Early records of shipboard fifes and drums confirm this proven method of delivering orders over the din of battle. The sea chantey united the voices as it coordinated the efforts of the crew. There were

special varieties for specific tasks from hoisting the mainsail to weighing anchor. After-hours entertainment featured the chanthey in sentimental thoughts of home and often humorous

our Navy grew. By the early 1900s, the Navy established the first Musician Training School at St. Hellena, Va. (1902). In 1903, the forerunner of the Navy Band arrived for duty at the

Washington Navy Yard where Bandmaster Brenner directed a unit of 16 men that established Navy music in our nation’s capital. By 1916 this 34-member unit was playing for the president and became known as the Washington Navy Yard Band. The stage was set.

Join us next time to discover the affects of World War I and the impact of the March King himself, John Philip Sousa! *ff*

speculation about their next adventure. The scope and size of these musical groups increased as



Dressed in 1812 Uniforms, members of the “Sea Chanters” chorus recreate the sea chanty tradition.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The United States Navy Band
617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5054

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CELEBRATING FREEDOM,
HONORING SERVICE



Pass-in-Review.

The 55th Presidential Inauguration chose “Celebrating Freedom, Honoring Service” as its theme – ideal watchwords for your United States Navy Band. The “Sea Chanters” chorus witnessed President George W. Bush take his oath of office and deliver his inaugural address from the West

The Inaugural Parade, that thrilling progression from the Capitol to the pass-in-review at the White House, was broadcast across the nation and around the world. As in every inauguration since our founding in 1925, your United States Navy Band was there.



Musician First Class Emily J. Dickson escorts The Ohio State University Marching Band.

Terrace of the U.S. Capitol. They performed “God of our Fathers” with the Marine Band as part of the official ceremony.

M. Ingraham and Ensign T. David Evans. “The inauguration is one of the most important events we do. It’s a

real honor to participate,” said Senior Chief Musician Joe D. Brown of Clinton, Miss.

“My favorite part is the first step-off,” added Chief Musician Juan Vazquez of Baltimore, Md. “It’s exhilarating and it just overtakes you.”

Members of staff and specialty groups joined the concert/ceremonial



Chief Musician Gregg C. Kellogg prepares to march in the 55th Inaugural parade.

department to form the 99-piece marching unit. The parade was not the only opportunity for them to perform for the President. The Sea Chanters performed preliminary music for events before and after inauguration day. They sang at the MCI Center for “Saluting Those Who Serve” where, at his request, they joined Lee Greenwood on his ever-popular “God Bless the U.S.A.!” On Friday, they participated prior to the National Prayer Service at the National Cathedral. Earlier in the week, our Brass Quintet played for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’s reception in honor of the Inauguration. Master Chief Gerard J. Ascione, concert band pianist, and Chief Yolanda Pelzer Harvin, vocalist with the “Commodores” jazz

Performance Calendar

The U.S. Navy Band and specialty groups present the following FREE concerts. Tickets or reservations are not required unless noted (*). For more information call (202) 433-2525.

MARCH

NAVY BAND

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 7:30 P.M.*

Bishop Ireton High School
Garwood Whaley Auditorium
201 Cambridge Road
Alexandria, Va.

*This is a combined concert with the Bishop Ireton High School Band

CEREMONIAL
BAND

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 12:30 P.M.

“St. Patrick’s Day Parade”
Alexandria, Va.

COMMODORES

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 7 P.M.

Millbrook High School
251 First Woods Drive
Winchester, Va.

COMMODORES
COMBO AND
VOCALIST

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 7 P.M.

Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.

*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

APRIL

NAVY BAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 8 P.M.*

Grace E. Metz Middle School
9700 Fairview Ave.
Manassas, Va.

*For FREE tickets call (703) 361-6599

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 7:30 P.M.

James Madison High School
2500 James Madison Drive
Vienna, Va.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 8 P.M.

College of Southern Maryland
Fine Arts Center
8730 Mitchell Road
La Plata, Md.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 7:30 P.M.*

Colonial Forge High School
550 Courthouse Road
Stafford, Va. 22554
*Featuring the winner of the 2005 Navy Band High School Concerto Competition

CEREMONIAL
BAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, NOON

“Blessing of the Fleet”
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

SEA CHANTERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 7 P.M.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
2001 Sherwood Hall Lane
Alexandria, Va.

COMMODORES

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, NOON

“Jazz Appreciation Month”
National Museum of American History
Carmichael Auditorium
14th St. & Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 6 P.M.

Smithsonian Jazz Café
National Museum of Natural History
Constitution Ave. & 10th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

COUNTRY
CURRENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, NOON

“Blessing of the Fleet”
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 P.M.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
44078 St. Andrew’s Church Road
California, Md.

CRUISERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, NOON

“Earth Day Celebration”
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

HARP-FLUTE DUO

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 7 P.M.*

Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

LOOKING AHEAD
TO MAY

NAVY BAND

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 7:30 P.M.

Bishop Ireton High School
Garwood Whaley Auditorium
201 Cambridge Road
Alexandria, Va.
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 8 P.M.
North County High School
10 East First Ave.
Glen Burnie, Md.

SEA CHANTERS

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 7 P.M.*

Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897

The United States Navy Band • Washington, D.C.

Captain Ralph M. Gambone, USN • Officer in Charge/Leader

All concert information is accurate at time of publication, though subject to change due to weather and other conditions. For concert updates call the 24-hour Navy Band Performance Calendar at (202) 433-2525, or visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil.

CAPTAIN’S MESSAGE



As the recent Presidential Inaugural enters our collective memories, we look ahead to the Navy Band’s 80th Anniversary, reflecting on the importance our music and our position as the Navy’s premiere musical organization and presidential support unit.

March 4, 1925, represents both the Inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge and the birthday of the United States Navy Band. Eighty years later, the inauguration is now in January with your Navy Band participating in many events. February sees the Navy Band, “Sea Chanters” chorus and “Cruisers” rock ensemble performing together on a three week national tour of the Southeast that culminates with our March anniversary concert. The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, hosts this gala evening at DAR Constitution Hall on March 5, 2005. We hope you will join us.

The world has seen dramatic changes since our last anniversary concert, five years ago. As our country experienced the tragedy of 9/11 and its aftermath, the solemnity of the funeral for a beloved former president and the uplifting dedication of the National World War II Memorial, your Navy Band was there, providing just the right music for each historic occasion. I am indeed honored to lead the men and women of this organization who proudly carry on the tradition of those who served before us, whose talents and accomplishments were proclaimed “The World’s Finest.”

Over the past 80 years our music has played a key role in many historic events for our Navy and our nation. We are all very proud of our history and our continued service to America. We look forward with great anticipation to many more years of making outstanding music for our fellow Navy men and women and for all of you, the citizens of this great country.

Ralph M. Gambone

Ralph M. Gambone, Captain, USN
Officer in Charge/Leader

NOTABLE QUOTES

Saxophone Symposium...

“my students had extra incentive to work hard because they looked forward to performing at your event. Bravo! to the entire Navy Band organization. You have been the most gracious hosts.”

Chien-Kwan Lin
Asst. Professor of Saxophone
Eastman School of Music

“I found the 2005 Saxophone Symposium a very worthwhile and inspiring event. It exemplified the high standards that the United States Navy Band sets for itself in fulfilling its commitment to education. ... I benefited immensely from this superb event and I am very grateful to the United States Navy Band.”

Robert C. Watson
Student of saxophone for 5 years

80th Anniversary Concert...

“Congratulations to the men and women of the United States Navy Band as you celebrate 80 years of excellent and dedicated service to our Navy and the Nation.”

The Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy

“I applaud your many outstanding accomplishments and wish you continued success in the years ahead to the century mark.”

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Former Secretary of Defense

“It was an honor to me to be the Narrator of the 226th Birthday Concert...it was a heart-felt performance. Congratulations on your 80th Anniversary concert this year.”

Tony Curtis
Guest Narrator 2001 Birthday Concert

“Having served my Country in the Navy for 10 years, and then becoming an actor, I can truthfully say that being able to work with you, and the Navy Band is an actor’s dream, and I have been most fortunate! And I thank you.”

Ernest Borgnine
Guest narrator for 2002 and 2004 Birthday Concert

FEATURES/CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

ensemble, performed for the brunch honoring Medal of Honor recipients. The Ceremonial band performed the “patriotic opener” for a candlelight dinner on the eve of the big day and for two of the Inaugural Balls.

We can’t forget the five escorts who remained in the cold for so many hours to make sure that visiting organizations were welcomed to Washington for this great event. They included Musicians First Class R. Joseph (Seph) Coates (Concert Band), Brad M. Corbin (Country Current), Peter A. Czekaj (audio

engineer), Emily J. Dickson (Concert Band), David Gary Malvaso (Commodores) and Peter Revell (Sea Chanters trio). Wondering what happened to the Cruisers? They marched as part of the 99-piece unit in the parade that epitomized the



President and Mrs. George W. Bush dance to the music of the Navy Band Ceremonial Unit, Ensign T. David Evans, conducting.



Chief Keith D. Hinton conducts the “Sea Chanters” chorus at The National Cathedral. Chief Sharon E. Barry accompanies at the piano.

The Navy Band Remembers Frederick Fennell

December 7, 2004, marked the passing of legendary band conductor Frederick Fennell at his home in Siesta Key, Florida. He was 90 years old. Known as a champion of wind band music, Fennell founded the Eastman Wind Ensemble in 1952. He brought the group to international acclaim through recordings that expanded the boundaries of accepted

concert band practice and raised its artistic level to that of the symphony orchestra. Fennell influenced a generation of musicians as conductor-in-residence at the Eastman School of Music, the University of Miami and the Interlochen National Music Camp in Michigan. Many current and former Navy Band members have performed under his direction. Former leader, Commander Allen E. Beck, was a clarinet player in Fennell’s wind

ensemble during his student days at Eastman. Many others knew him through Interlochen and through his countless guest conducting appearances. In 1987, Fennell conducted the Navy Band in Percy Grainger’s “Lincolnshire Posy” at the Midwest International Band Clinic in Chicago.

The music world and the Navy Band owe a great debt to Mr. Fennell for his pioneering work in the wind band genre. He will be greatly missed. *ff*

80th Anniversary Concert

Don’t miss out! Come and join your United States Navy Band for our 80th Anniversary Concert at DAR Constitution Hall on March 5, 2005, at 8 p.m. when The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, hosts this gala event. It’s 90 minutes of non-stop entertainment from the Navy Band. “Sea Chanters” chorus and “Cruisers” rock ensemble. This musical celebration features your

favorites from our past 80 years of service to America.

From the National Anthem to our national march, Capt. Ralph M. Gambone will “Strike Up The Band” with Broadway melodies, “A Celebration of Swing,” sets from the 50s and 60s, modern hits and sentimental favorites. The dignity of the Presentation of the Colors, the Navy Hymn and our salute to veterans will inspire you. The joy of our music will get your

toes tapping and your heart singing. You don’t want to miss this one!

The concert is FREE but tickets are required. If you don’t have tickets, call (202) 433-2525 and arrange to pick them up at the Will Call table when the doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is a half hour earlier than usual to allow time for you to visit our special display in honor of this, our 80th Anniversary. *ff*

CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Musician First Class R. Joseph Coats, string bass instrumentalist with the Navy Band, on his selection as “Sailor of the Year” for 2004

Chief Musician Christopher J. Raifsnider, clarinet instrumentalist with the Navy Band, on his selection as “Chief of the Quarter”



Musician First Class Robert A. Holmes, saxophone instrumentalist with the “Commodores” jazz ensemble on his selection as “Sailor of the Quarter” for the period October-December 2004



SPOTLIGHT ON...

By any measure, retiring **Master Chief Musician Robert E. Sullivan** has had a successful Navy career. He has shown great versatility not only in his musical performances, but also in the jobs that he has undertaken during his tenure with the Navy Band - including unit leader of the “Country Current” country-bluegrass group, Specialty Group Department Chief-in-Charge and Public Affairs Chief. A true showman, his performances have been acclaimed by high-ranking government and military officials. His achievements have earned him numerous awards, as well as promotion to the rank coveted by many Sailors of all rates - Master Chief. However, even more revealing about his character is how he personally measures his own accomplishments - by the success of those around him.

Master Chief, how did you become a member of the Band?

I entered the Navy Music Program in 1975 and meritoriously advanced to Musician Third Class upon completing the Basic Course at the Navy School of Music in 1976. My first duty station was Navy Band San Diego and in 1979, after a full tour, I received orders to the Naval Academy Band. But wait...not so fast, my friends! After learning of an opening in the Navy Band’s rock group “Port Authority,” I sent in an audition tape and soon learned that I would save about 40 miles in my trip across country. I arrived at Navy Band in February of 1979.

Was your career what you had anticipated?

Since that time, my experiences have been more diverse than I could ever have imagined. Destiny somehow led me to the Ceremonial Band, Country Current and then the Public Affairs Office. Along the way I was a Unit Leader, a Department Chief and an Office Supervisor. As a leader, I tried to provide opportunities for my personnel and judged myself by their success. For example, during my six years as a Unit Leader, seven group members received advancements, a record of which I am particularly proud.

What inspired you to become a Navy musician?

My father was my hero and since he was a Navy Chief, as was his father before him, all I wanted to do was follow in their footsteps. That included the “old school” initiations for Chief Petty Officer and for crossing the equator and becoming a “Shellback.” And who knows, maybe my daughter-in-law Shana (lead vocalist with the “Cruisers” rock ensemble) will ensure that there’ll be a fourth generation of Sullivan Chiefs! Not to mention that she and my son Josh are about to make me a grandfather - and the timing couldn’t be better.

What else lies ahead for you?

As far as my plans for the future, they are simple. My wife Emily was a constant source of support and encouragement during my career, and now I have the opportunity to return the favor. After beginning a career in clinical research, she decided that she wanted to leave the laboratory environment for more patient contact. She is nearly halfway through the Physician’s Assistant program at the George Washington University. It’s an ambitious undertaking, and I want to do everything I can to allow her to focus on her studies. Other than that, you’ll probably find me at a DC juke joint playing my Telecaster (guitar) through a Vibrolux (amp) turned up to 10.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND HAS OPENINGS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS.

CONCERT/ CEREMONIAL BAND

Trumpet
March 11, 2005
Trombone
May 23, 2005

SEA CHANTERS CHORUS

Mezzo-Soprano Vocalist
March 18, 2005
Bass Vocalist
March 18, 2005

For more information call:
Senior Chief Musician Stuart McLean, Audition Supervisor at (202) 433-2840.
Or email:
navyband.auditions@navy.mil.

Visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil

Contact Information

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